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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/808,479	03/25/2004	Hiroshi Abe	03500.018050	6315	
5514 75	90 02/16/2006		EXAMI	NER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA			WALSH, RYAN D		
NEW YORK, 1			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2852		
			DATE MAILED: 02/16/2006		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 3 objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 1, the claimed language "and 0.10 mm" appears to be inconsistent with the specification. In the present specification, paragraph [0026] (US Pub. 2004/0197115), the roughness curve average length states "0.01mm or less", which is inconsistent with the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Regarding claim 3, the claimed language "...proportion of the component (A) to the component (A)" appears to be incorrect. It appears the language should recite, -- proportion of the component (A) to the component (B)--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakii et al. (US Pub. 2002/0086125) in view of Hosoya et al. (US Pat. # 4,967,231).

Regarding claim 1, Kakii et al. teach, "A charging roller for a contact charging assembly, comprising a conductive substrate (ref. # 2 & [0007]-[0008]), an elastic layer (Fig. 1, ref. # 3) which covers the periphery of the conductive substrate, and a seamless tube (Col. 7, Ln. 34) externally so fitted as to cover the periphery of the elastic layer

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[0053], wherein said seamless tube constitutes a surface layer of the charging roller (Fig. 1, ref.# 4)." Kakii et al. do not teach, "wherein said charging roller has a surface of 3.0 .mu.m or less in ten-point average roughness Rz jis 94, and 0.10 mm or less in roughness curve average length RSm." However, Hosoya et al. teach, "wherein said charging roller has a surface of 3.0 .mu.m or less in ten-point average roughness Rz jis 94, and 0.10 mm or less in roughness curve average length RSm (see Col. 14, Ln. 44-54)." It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kakii et al. invention to include said charging roller having a surface of 3.0 .mu.m or less in ten-point average roughness Rz jis 94, and 0.10 mm or less in roughness curve average length RSm.

The ordinary artisan would have been motivated to modify Kakii et al. invention in a manner described above for at least the purpose of decreasing size, reducing the decline of capacity due to protracted use, and precluding the occurrence of dispersion of characteristic, efficiency, or performance (see Hosoya et al., Abstract).

Regarding claim 2, Kakii et al. teach, "wherein said seamless tube comprises a high-impact polystyrene HIPS ([0054]-[0055], specifically [0055], Ln. 8)."

Regarding claim 4, Kakii et al. teach, "wherein said seamless tube comprises a multi-layer structure having a plurality of layers (Fig. 1, ref. # 4 (4a & 4b))."

Regarding claim 5, Kakii et al. teach, "A process cartridge comprising an electrophotographic photosensitive member and the charging roller according to claim 1 Application/Control Number: 10/808,479

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which are integrally supported together, and being detachably mountable on a main body of an electrophotographic apparatus (Abstract, Ln. 15-17)."

Regarding claim 6, Kakii et al. teach, "An electrophotographic apparatus comprising an electrophotographic photosensitive member and the charging roller according to claim 1(Abstract, Ln. 15-17)."

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 3, the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed, "proportion of the component (A) to the component (B) is (A)/(B)=80/20 to 40/60 in weight ratio."

Note: "component (B)" is shown corrected.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Takagi et al. (US Pat. # 5,466,499), Funabashi (US Pub. 2003/0044199) and Abe et al. (US Pub. 2002/0039500, each cited for their similar structure and physical properties related to the present invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan D. Walsh whose telephone number is 571-272-2726. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am-4:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on 571-272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ryan D. Walsh Patent Examiner Art Unit 2852

Arthur T. Grimley Supervisory Patent Examiner Technology Center 2800